



STAR MAZDA/RACING FOR KIDS TEAM TO VISIT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ATLANTA SCOTTICH RITE; PETER DEMPSEY TAKES CHECKERED FLAG TO WIN RFK 'BEST FINISH' AWARD



Atlanta, GA - Star Mazda and Racing for Kids, now in its fourth season of teaming up to visit sick kids at children's hospitals at five sites along the Star Mazda circuit, paid a visit last week (Sept. 24th) to the Children's Hospital of Atlanta Scottish Rite in Atlanta, Georgia.

Two Star Mazda drivers visited youngsters at the Hospital including championship leader (and ultimate race winner) Peter Dempsey, as well as

Japanese racer Toshihiro Deki (currently leading the battle for the Expert Series championship for drivers aged 30 – 44.

Dempsey then went on to take first place in the Star Mazda Race at the Petit Le Mans Powered by MAZDA6 at Road Atlanta. Deki finished 2nd in the Expert Series.

Star Mazda and RFK are scheduled to do five hospital visits this year with final visit to take place on Tuesday October 6 at the Lucile Salter Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford. A \$500 donation is made by RFK to each hospital at the selected race sites and another \$500 cash prize goes to the top finishing RFK driver in the event.

Through the program, any Star Mazda Championship driver may join Racing for Kids by making a Racing for Kids-sponsored children's hospital visit, where drivers visit with sick kids and sign autographs and hand out racing memorabilia. Racing for Kids then offers a \$500 cash prize to the top finishing Racing for Kids driver in the race where there was a hospital visit, and a comparable cash donation to the Children's Hospital in the top finishing driver's name. A \$1,000 cash prize will be offered to the best performing driver in the five race mini-series with another \$1,000 going to the children's healthcare institution of the driver's choice. Joel Miller of Hesperia, California won the RFK Star Mazda title last year and Alex Ardoin of Lafayette, Louisiana won the honor in 2007.

Racing for Kids was started in 1989 by now retired Indy Driver and current Indy Racing League Team owner Robbie Buhl and Dr. Bill PInsky, a pediatric cardiologist. Since the time, Racing for Kids has visited more than 20,000 sick kids and raised and donated more than \$5M to children's healthcare institutions.

Additional information is available at <u>www.racingforkids.org</u> or <u>www.starmazda.com</u>

Drivers or teams interested in participating in the Star Mazda Racing for Kids program should contact Ron Hingst of Racing for Kids at <u>marketing@prservices.com</u> or 734-662-5544 OR CELL 734-276-7237

For more information on the Star Mazda Championship, please visit <u>www.starmazda.com</u> or contact Star Mazda Communications Director Peter Frey at (818) 398-5733 or StarMazdaPR@aol.com.

On any given weekend, there are more Mazdas on the road-race tracks of America than any other brand of vehicle. At the track, you'll see MX-5 Miata, RX-8, MAZDA3, MAZDA6, RX-7 and other vintage Mazda models competing, because every Mazda has the Soul of a Sports Car.

For more information on the various Mazda spec series, visit:

<u>www.atlanticchampionship.com</u> <u>www.starmazda.com</u> <u>www.skipbarber.com</u> <u>www.mx-5cup.com</u>

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